



**DANE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

Date: 05-16-2025

**NO CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR WISCONSIN STATE
PATROL TROOPER AND IOWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPUTY INVOLVED IN A VEHICLE PURSUIT AND
CRASH FATALITY INCIDENT ON 03-02-2025**

After briefings by investigators, an inspection of the scene shortly after the incident, a review of summary reports, diagrams, squad video and other evidence, the Dane County District Attorney's Office concluded Friday, May 16, 2025, that there is no potential criminal court liability for the Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper and/or Deputy with the Iowa County Sheriff's Office involved in the pursuit incident resulting in a single vehicle crash and fatality on March 2, 2025, on HWY 151 near mile marker 65.

In this incident, just after 6 p.m. on March 2, 2025, Iowa County Dispatch received a 911 call indicating a vehicle was traveling northbound on HWY 151 going approximately 140 miles per hour traveling through the median to pass other vehicles on the road and almost causing accidents. Additional 911 calls came in with similar information and dispatch sent the information to deputies regarding the vehicle in question, which was described as a dark in color Lexus.

An Iowa County Sheriff's Deputy located the suspect vehicle northbound on HWY 151. The deputy went lights and sirens in pursuit of the vehicle. Shortly after the pursuit began, a Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper joined the Iowa County Sheriff's Deputy in the pursuit. As the suspect vehicle was approaching Dane County, law enforcement requested permission and assistance with spike strips to be deployed. The request for spike strips was approved and planned to be deployed around mile marker 66 on HWY 151. As the suspect vehicle approached mile marker 65, it moved left to avoid a vehicle in the right lane just before veering back across both lanes of traffic in front of the vehicle in the right lane, and continuing off the roadway. After leaving the roadway, the suspect vehicle rolled over numerous times before coming to a stop on its roof. The driver was ejected from the vehicle and came to rest approximately 75 feet past the location of the vehicle. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was immediately requested to respond to the location of the crash.

The driver of the vehicle and registered owner was later identified as Bo A. Johnson (DOB: 6-17-96).

In this case, there is no evidence that law enforcement from either agency pursuing the suspect vehicle ever made any physical contact with the vehicle prior to the driver losing control and leaving the roadway. At times, the suspect vehicle was driving over 100 miles per hour and Mr.

Johnson, who was the single occupant in the suspect vehicle, lost control and veered off the road causing the vehicle to rollover numerous times ejecting him, prior to law enforcement attempting to spike the vehicle's tires. Mr. Johnson was pronounced deceased at the scene. The road conditions were clear and there was light traffic on the roadway during the active pursuit.

Relevant evidence includes statements of officers at the scene, scene diagrams, evidence collection, squad video, which are consistent with each other.

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The role of the District Attorney's Office in a case of this type is limited to a review of the facts to determine whether further investigation is merited and, after all available evidence is obtained, whether criminal charges could be merited for any individual who has survived the incident. Police executives and supervisors have the exclusive responsibility of establishing appropriate training and protocols for use in response to crisis events, and of selecting from among the tactical options available to police in responding to particular events.

Now with the passage of Wis. Stat. 175.47 there is also a question of compliance with said Statute. This critical incident involved a Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper and a Deputy with the Iowa County Sheriff's Office, who were responding to a 911 call of a reckless driver, driving in excess of 100 miles per hour northbound on HWY 151. Both the Trooper and the Deputy began a pursuit of the vehicle in question and prior to any physical attempt to disable or impede the vehicle, the driver lost control of the vehicle and was ejected.

This investigation was conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and is in compliance with the statute. In the case of a death caused by an officer, the statute requires that at least two investigators from outside agencies or agencies not involved in the critical incident/Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) lead the investigation:

(3)(a) Each policy under sub. (2) must require an investigation conducted by at least two investigators, one of whom is the lead investigator and neither of whom is employed by a law enforcement agency that employs a law enforcement officer involved in the officer-involved death.

The Wisconsin State Patrol requested DCI conduct the investigation in compliance with said statute as this incident involves a death as a critical incident involving a police pursuit.

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